



## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/661,847	09/12/2003	Charles Edward Boardman	24-AT-135243	8534
7590	04/28/2009		EXAMINER	
Patrick W. Rasche Armstrong Teasdale LLP Suite 2600 One Metropolitan Square St. Louis, MO 63102			GREENE, DANIEL LAWSON	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3694	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			04/28/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/661,847	<b>Applicant(s)</b> BOARDMAN ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b> DANIEL L. GREENE	<b>Art Unit</b> 3694

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2009.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4,6-8,10,11,13 and 15-20 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-4,6-8,10,11,13 and 15-20 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13 and 15-20 are pending. In the response received 2/13/2009, none of the claims were amended as Applicant merely argued against the applied references of record. An action on the merits of pending claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13 and 15-20 follows.

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/13/2009 has been entered.

***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments filed 2/13/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant did not amend the claims in the most recent response (filed 2/13/2009) merely argued against the references of record. It appears applicant argued against the references individually, INSTEAD of in the manner explained by the Examiner as set forth in previous Office actions. Applicant does not appear to proffer any NEW arguments not already addressed in the previous Final Office action mailed 10/16/2008. Again, drop ceilings are a NOTORIOUSLY old and well known manner of supporting a structure. Accordingly, the use of said supporting structure would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for whatever purpose one would endeavor. Applicant's arguments are not dispositive of the Examiners

explanations set forth in previous Office actions, accordingly said rejections are sustained and incorporated herein by reference as evidenced by their restatement below.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

5. **Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,813,327 to Challberg in view of U.S. Patent 3,650,895 to Sodergard and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,922,670 to Naka et al. for the reasons set forth in section 6 of the previous Office action mailed 10/16/2008 which in turn refers back to section 13 of the previous Office action mailed 12/12/2007 which in turn refers back to section 11 of the previous Office action mailed 4/27/2006.**

6. **Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,813,327 to Challberg in view of U.S. Patent 3,650,895 to Sodergard and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,922,670 to Naka et al. as applied to claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13 and 15-18 above and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,519,746 to Dalke et al. for the reasons set forth in section 7 of the previous Office action mailed 10/16/2008 which in turn refers back section 14 of the previous Office action mailed 12/12/2007 which in turn refers to section 12 of the previous Office action mailed 4/27/2006.**

***Conclusion***

7. This is a request for continuation of applicant's earlier Application No. 10/661,847. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

8. It is not seen wherein applicant amended the claims in the most recently received response, accordingly the rejections and reasons therefore are still considered pertinent as evidenced by their reproduction herein.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no, however, event will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL L. GREENE whose telephone number is (571)272-6876. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur.

Art Unit: 3694

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James P. Trammell can be reached on (571) 272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/D. L. G./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3694  
2009-04-27

/James P Trammell/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3694